

VIOLENCE BY DISCIPLES LEADS TO AUTHOR'S DOOR

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The author of the gospel of hate certainly doesn't look the part. With his snow-white hair and matching beard, white supremacist Richard Kelly Hoskins comes across as grandfatherly.

More unsettling to some residents of this Southern town is the image of Hoskins, in his small brick house along a pretty tree-lined road just past the country club, crafting books and essays that have inspired several men to rob banks, attack minorities and shoot doctors who perform abortions.

Police found a copy of Hoskins' 1985 book, "War Cycles, Peace Cycles," in the van of Buford O. Furrow, who police say shot Jewish children last week at a Los Angeles community center then killed a Filipino-American postal worker.

The author, however, accepts no responsibility for any violent attacks committed by readers of his books.

Speaking briefly with a reporter at his front door last week, Hoskins said he never advocated shooting children and that anyone who hurts them should be punished by law.

He then opened the door a crack to hand the reporter a typed statement but refused to let her inside because, "I worked for military intelligence, and I know how easy it is to plant a bug."

His statement said he finds it inconceivable that someone should "suddenly become agitated and rush out to murder children" nearly 15 years after "War Cycles, Peace Cycles" was published.

"Guilt by association must stop if freedom of the press is to survive in America and a free exchange of ideas can still take place," wrote Hoskins, a former stockbroker now in his 70s.

On the lawn near the house, a dramatic sculpture of a dragon's head loomed while Hoskins made charming small talk on other subjects through his screen door. When the questions turned more serious, he said his lawyer had advised him not to discuss the shootings or his beliefs any further.

"Read my writings," he said. "That will tell you what you want to know."

In his 1985 book and in another he published in 1990, "Vigilantes of Christendom: The Story of the Phineas Priesthood," Hoskins laments what he believes are the evils of integration and glorifies Adolf Hitler. He offers elaborate justification for the so-called Phineas priesthood, a violent creed of vengeance that is popular among white supremacists, anti-abortion extremists and anti-government radicals.

In the Bible, Phineas killed an Israelite and his heathen wife with a javelin for defying God's prohibition against consorting with women who were not of the Chosen People. In the Old Testament book of Numbers, Phineas' action saved the people of Israel from a plague and gained him and his descendants a perpetual priesthood.

Anti-abortion activist Paul Hill was drawn to the Phineas creed. Hill was convicted of killing a doctor and his escort outside an abortion clinic in Pensacola, Fla., in 1994. He had written an essay supporting "Phineas actions" a year earlier.

Other followers include Peter Kevin Langan and Richard Lee Guthrie, leaders of the Aryan Republican Army who were arrested in Ohio after committing at least 22 bank robberies from 1994 to 1996.

During that time, Langan recorded a recruitment video for the group in which he held up a copy of Hoskins' 1990 book and called it a handbook for revolution.

According to Hoskins, nearly 50,000 copies of "War Cycles, Peace Cycles" have been published by the Virginia Publishing Co., which he operates from his home. He calls the \$18 book a Christian essay on economics in the ancient world, Europe and America.

Hate group experts say the book twists biblical passages to justify racist and anti-Semitic acts of violence.

Many who call themselves Phineas Priests belong to a radical fringe of the right-wing Christian Identity group, which preaches that white Europeans are the true chosen people and that Jewish people are the spawn of Satan.

The priesthood is more a creed than an organization. There are no rallies, newsletters or official memberships. People join by committing lone acts of violence against nonwhites. They believe they are among God's chosen few.

Hoskins has denied the existence of an organized Phineas Priesthood in past interviews. The foreword of his 1990 book, however, suggests Phineas is to Christianity what the kamikaze code is to Japan.

Hoskins also produces an occasional newsletter, Hoskins Report, that his Internet site says offers analysis "important to the Christian community and the world at large."

In one report, Hoskins concluded after six pages of analysis that it is plausible the U.S. government blew up the federal building in Oklahoma City in 1995 because it is not above killing its own employees to produce change in America.

His writings first drew national attention in 1991 after he printed a letter in his newsletter from Byron de la Beckwith, the man convicted of the 1963 murder of civil rights leader Medgar Evers.

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